

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shouji YAJIMA, Hiroyuki HIRAIWA and Yasuji ISHIDA

Application No.: Rule 53(b) Divisional of 09/806,236 filed March 28, 2001

Filed: December 3, 2003

Docket No.: 109067.01

For: PRODUCTION METHOD OF SYNTHETIC SILICA GLASS AND THERMAL  
TREATMENT APPARATUS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to initial examination on the merits, please consider the following:

**Amendments to the Specification;** and

**Remarks.**